Neglect of University Education

295. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds for university eduction are being progressively reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons for neglecting unviersity education; and

(c) the steps to be taken to encourage university education during the 9th plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) The Working Group on Higher Education has identified the following thrust areas for development of higher education in the IXth Plan:—

1. Relevance and Quality of Eduction.
2. Access and Equity.
3. The University & Social Change.
   (a) Adult Continuing Education and Outreach.
   (b) Women's Studies.
4. Mangement of Higher Education.
5. Resource mobilisation and utilisation.

Formulation of National Youth and Sports Policy

296. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE development be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to foumulate a National Youth and Sports Policy;

(b) whether modalities of framing the policy have been discussed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT. OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.): (a) to (c) National Youth and Sports policies already exist. There is a proposal to re-formualte these policies with a view to making more need-based.

Hike in Prices of Fertilizers in Kerala

297. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the government that in Kerala, the prices of fertilizers have gone up as the fertilizer companies are not availing subsidies and are selling fertilizers for prices fixed at their fancy; and

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to ensure that the agriculturists of Kerala get the benefit of subsidy on fetilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) The maximum retail price of decontrolled fertilizers fixed by the Government of Kerala for Kharif 1996 were provisionally extended to Rabi 1996-97. After negotiations with the manufacturers/suppliers in the context of increased cost of production/procurement and distribution, the prices were revised with effect from 1.11.96. During the period from 1.10.96 to 30.10.96, FACT has sold its product, Factomphos, without availing of the benefit of the Special Concession Scheme.